

Minutes AEC Meeting
April 4, 2016
Rosalie E. Mitchell Community Center
1014 President St.

I. The meeting was called to order at 5:35 PM by Trish Irvin, Chair.

Commission members in attendance: T. Irvin, E. Collison-Lee, P. Bukowski, J. Norman, J. Macris, J. Pachler, K. Sharps, J. Gorski
City Council Liaison: S. Finlayson

II. Welcome by chair Trish Irvin and self-introductions from attendees.

III. Approval of Minutes

Approval tabled until May meeting.

IV. Old Business

a. "Poverty Amidst Plenty V: Striving To Achieve Progress For All" Dr. Pamela Brown - Executive Director, A.A.Co. Partnership for Children, Youth & Families

Electronic link to Dr. Brown's Annual Report for 2015: <http://www.cfaac.org/2015-needs-assessment/>

Discussion Points:

- Data about children and education gathered through over 150 focus groups/stakeholders interviews
- Stress is a huge subject. Stress factors span the gamut from electronics, violence, poverty issues, increased work hours/ inadequate compensation...and more. Kids are living in "toxic stress."
- Hispanic population fastest growing in the county at 11.2%
- Top areas of poverty in AA Co: Brooklyn Park, Harmans, Curtis Bay, Glen Burnie, Deale
- Needs include affordable housing, child care, transportation
- Family homelessness, new rising statistic. Gaps because funding and facilities seem to cater more to singles than families.
- Current report says 925 kids in AACPS are documented homeless—Remarks from AEC attendees indicated that this may not be reflective of true numbers which are thought to be higher.
- Approximately 300 unaccompanied youth in AACPS.
- Unemployment, particularly for our youth ages 16-24 who are African-American and Hispanic
- Underemployment, (i.e. working poor); difficult to live in AA County when receiving minimum wage salary
- Lack of adequate medical resources
- Lack of available mental health/behavioral health services: Significant increase in children ages 0-5 being referred.
- Substance abuse, particularly opioids and heroin, is statistically significant in Anne Arundel County. Areas of greatest concern are South County and Pasadena. Marijuana and alcohol abuse among youth also big problem in county, according to self-reporting data in Crofton, Annapolis and Severna Park areas.
- Education concerns for our students living in poverty begin with lack of early childhood readiness, achievement/opportunity gap prevalent when comparing data from students

